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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE

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THE MAYORALTY

Harrison and Sweitzer Will Contest for the Democratic Nomination at the Big February Primary.

Spring Campaign Is Now Fully Under Way With Candidates for Every Place in the Running.

General Gossip from Municipal, County, State, Sanitary and Other Political Fields of Public Interest Up to Date.

What the Leaders in the Wards Are Doing for Their Country, for Themselves and for Their Friends.

Mayor Harrison and County Clerk Sweitzer, as already announced in The Eagle, are in the field as candidates for the Democratic mayoralty nomination.

County Clerk Robert M. Sweitzer was formally chosen Tuesday as the candidate of Sullivan Democrats for the Democratic nomination for mayor. The selection took place at a meeting of the Sullivan leaders from all wards at the Hotel Sherman. City Clerk Francis D. Connery and Clerk of the Circuit Court John W. Rainey, who had been the chief rivals of Mr. Sweitzer in the Sullivan camp, withdrew in his favor and pledged support at the start of the meeting.

County Treasurer Henry Stuckart was made chairman and Mr. Connery secretary of the Sweitzer campaign committee. Headquarters will be opened in a few days at the Hotel Sherman.

One well meaning newspaper and some aldermen are talking about putting a burden on the poor householders of Chicago which will cause no end of trouble.

The City Council is asked to pass an ordinance requiring householders and property owners to clean their sidewalks of snow and ice every day before noon of the day it snows.

This will require the householder or property owner to lose half a day from his work to do something that the city itself should do.

Of course, such an ordinance would be illegal.

It would be just as legal to ask the people to clean off the streets to prevent automobile accidents.

Such an ordinance would cause endless litigation and much trouble to small property owners.

They would be made the victims of numerous put-up jobs for damage suits by litigants who would be looking for just such a chance.

The courts have decided over and over again that the sidewalks are part of the street. The streets belong to the city and it cannot turn the care of them over to anybody else.

Following is the proposed ordinance which will make so much trouble for householders:

"The owner or occupant of each building adjoining any street, and the owner or person in charge of any unoccupied building or vacant lot so fronting shall clean the sidewalk adjoining of snow and ice by 12 o'clock noon of each day, and cause the same to be kept clear; provided that when ice has so formed that it cannot be removed it shall be sprinkled with ashes, sawdust or sand; provided, also, that in case snow shall fall for some time it shall be removed immediately after it stops falling.

"Any person who fails to comply shall forfeit for each offense not less than \$1 nor more than \$5, an \$5 for each day such violation is continued. Where premises are occupied the occupant or person in charge shall be the person whose duty it is to comply with this ordinance."

Alderman William J. Healy expressed his indignation at a meeting of the council terminals committee when the question of granting certain privileges regarding the laying of tracks across Plymouth court between West Polk and West Taylor streets to the Chicago & Western Indiana Rail-

road came up for a vote. The question finally carried 6 to 2. The ordinance provides for a train shed and passenger facilities at South State and Polk streets.

The alderman charged that the request had been sent in by the railroad four or five times, and that each time it had come to the committee in different form. He said in strong language that he would not vote in favor of a proposed ordinance intended to grant the request until a thorough investigation had been made.

"My belief is that this railroad is seeking terminal facilities there," said the alderman, "with the idea in view of controlling sufficient ground which would enable it after a while to go ahead and build a terminal station without saying a word to the city about it."

"The first time the request was made it was placed in the hands of the local industries committee. This was merely a request to lay switchtracks. The next time a request was made to tear down certain buildings, as well as lay switch tracks. Then ground was sought for an immigrant station to be built in three years, and now it has reached five years. The thing, in my mind, has been changed too often. I do not believe the permission will be granted by the council."

Politics will be the paramount issue in Chicago from now on. According to the election calendar, things will be on in earnest Jan. 23 and from now until then the preliminaries will engage attention. The mayoralty primary and election are to be followed by the judicial election in June. The election calendar looks like this:

Jan. 23—1st day for filing petitions of primary candidates for mayor, city clerk, city treasurer and aldermen.

Feb. 2—Pre-primary registration day.

Feb. 3—Last day for filing primary petitions.

Feb. 23—Primaries for nomination of mayor and other municipal officers.

March 16—Registration day.

April 6—Mayoralty election.

June 7—Election of fourteen Circuit judges, one Superior Court judge and five justices of the Supreme Court.

The Republican County Central Committee has decided to pick a candidate for Mayor from the following names handed in by the ward committeemen in obedience to a resolution calling upon them to do so:

McCus Kavannah, John R. Thompson, David E. Shanahan, Thomas J. Healy, Albert J. Fisher, Bernard A. Eckhart, Harry E. Littler, Theodore K. Long, Willis O. Nance, Frank I. Bennett, Edwin W. Sims, James E. MacMurray, Isaac N. Powell, Charles N. Goodnow, Guy Guernsey, Bernard W. Snow, Samuel A. Kennedy, Martin B. Madden, William Hale Thompson, Edward J. Brundage, Kickham Scanlan, Abel Davis, Fred L. Wilk, John M. Harlan, Henry C. Beltier, Theodore Brentano, Harry Olson, Henry D. Capitain, Daniel A. Campbell, Charles E. Merriam.

The City should be redistricted at once, according to law. The wards should be equalized according to population. The First ward only has 50,682 inhabitants, while the Twenty-seventh has 94,360. Six of the wards

contain 75,000 people. The Fifteenth has 80,532; the Twenty-fifth has 86,104; the Twenty-ninth, 83,691; the Thirty-third, 83,229.

County Treasurer Stuckart and Assistant County Treasurer Lindheimer drove the loan sharks out of the City Hall when they had the City Treasurer's office. That they will not tolerate them around the County Building is certain.

The public pays taxes to the city for the care of the streets. The city can-

Madden, "it has fifty-one in fact. The bill would give the superintendent of mails in the Chicago office \$3,800 annually instead of \$3,200. The salaries of superintendents of Chicago's minor stations range from \$1,300 to \$2,000. If the appropriation bill allows the proposed changes they will be able to go as high as \$2,600, depending upon the receipts of their offices."

CITY HITS SELF

Assumes Full Responsibility for Cleaning Walks By Installing Newspaper Stands and Taking Control of Trees.

Talk about forcing property owners to do the city's work of cleaning its sidewalks is all rot.

The City of Chicago has nailed down its ownership and responsibility for the care of sidewalks in a number of ordinances.

Not the least of these is its giving permission for newspaper stands on sidewalks for the sale of daily papers—excluding all others—without asking the permission of the abutting property owner.

Another is the city ordinance prohibiting property owners from trimming trees planted by them in sidewalk space, without paying the city for a permit to do so.

The ordinance authorizing newspaper stands fixes the city's responsibility for sidewalk care on the city itself. It is so interesting at this time that we reproduce it:

Section 1. That Section 2471 of the Chicago Code of 1911 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2471. Newspaper Stands. The Commissioner of Public Works is hereby authorized to permit stands to be maintained on the public streets, between the hours of 5 a. m. and 8 p. m., which shall be used for the purpose of exhibiting for sale daily newspapers printed and published in Chicago. Such stands as authorized shall not exceed the following dimensions:

Base:
Width 28 inches
Depth 23 inches
Height 32 inches

Top:
Width 40 inches
Depth 26 inches
Height (back board) 17 inches
Nothing shall be exhibited, offered or sold therefrom except daily papers

HONOR T. A. SMYTH

President of the Sanitary District Is Congratulated by All on Fine Record Made in 1914.

General Political Gossip About the Mayoralty and the Other Places to be Filled Next Spring.

General Political Gossip from All the Camps About Candidates and Their Prospects in the Spring Election.

Mayoralty Fight Is Getting Hotter as the Time for Settling the Battle Draws Closer to Hand.

President Thomas A. Smyth of the Sanitary District of Chicago has reason to be proud of the fine record made by his administration during the past year.

The financial condition of the district never was better.

The work contracted for has been carried out in a thorough manner.

Every detail of the administration of this great public trust has been attended to with fidelity by the Trustees and their ever faithful President.

Republican organization managers

instance were so large that a recount cannot change the result.

The City Council transacted the following business at its meeting last Monday night:

Defeated the proposition to close all bars at dances and similar entertainments at 1 a. m.

Concurred in Mayor Harrison's appointment of Ernest J. Krueger, member of the School Board, vice Peter Reinberg.

Received petitions from various classes of city employees asking for one day off a week.

Approved report of the Municipal Markets Commission dealing with unemployment and adopted a resolution asking the Mayor to appoint a commission of ten employers to look into problem.

Approved Comptroller's selection of banks for city funds.

Accepted the resignation of Alderman Patrick J. Carr, now a member of the Sanitary District Board.

Ordered the City Hall closed Jan. 2, after Alderman Richard had objected.

Ordered the Finance Committee to look into matter of placing laborers in city employ under civil service.

Adopted resolutions concerning John Ericson, City Engineer, and William Artin, an assistant, for signing report advocating that the city pay the Sanitary District a higher rate for street lighting.

Passed orders for special elections on April 23 on account of deaths of Aldermen Belfuss and Wagg.

Deferred for one week after objections by Aldermen Lindheimer and Nash ordinance to establish tuberculosis dispensary at 43d street and Indiana avenue.

Passed orders of Alderman Capitain for legislation to compel cleaning of sidewalks.

Passed ordinance prohibiting adulteration of coal.

Passed ordinance prohibiting duplicate bank names.

At 12:08 a. m. the Council adjourned until next Monday night.

Remember your efficient alderman when your private mail box is filled with circulars of dentists, loan sharks and old clothes men. The alderman alone is responsible. He values the votes of the dentist, the shark and the clothes man more than he does yours. If he didn't he would imitate New York and other civilized communities and pass an ordinance forbidding the misuse of private mail boxes under heavy penalty.

Electrification will prove a costly fad.

It is announced that the property owners of Chicago are to be subjected to a lot of needless and illegal expense and annoyance.

The streets belong to the city from lot line to lot line and the property owner who abuts them is taxed for sidewalk and street improvements.

The cleaning of the streets, sidewalks and all devolves upon the city. The high salaried aldermen and the higher salaried lawyers of the city now propose to make the property owner clean the streets.

Aside from the injustice of this proposition it is manifestly illegal as the

courts have decided over and over again.

If the City Council would cut down some of the high salaries that are being paid in these hard times to city officials, employment could be given with the money thus obtained to thousands of men who could be put to work cleaning the sidewalks.

The property owners and taxpayers of Chicago have no friends.

The two real estate boards never do anything to help them and every faddist who comes along with a scheme hits the property owner and increases his burden.

The city should clean all of the streets including the sidewalks and should do it with money now wasted on high salaries.

According to newspaper reports, John W. Beckwith, corporation counsel of Chicago, will take steps at once to ascertain if Chicago can secure legislation to compel the removal of snow and ice from the sidewalks.

Walks that are covered with snow and ice are not only a menace to the pedestrian but they are a reflection on the civic pride of the citizens of the community, he said.

"It is possible that we can get a statute to compel the owner to take care of his own property and make the walk safe for the man on foot," said Mr. Beckwith. "I will be glad to take this matter up immediately. I will see if some legislation can be proposed which will make the tenant or the agent or the owner clear the sidewalks. The matter is well worthy of attention."

"It would be a great relief to the city from many points of view if we could handle the cleaning of the sidewalks in the way that has been suggested. It is growing more and more difficult for this office to care for the legal cases growing out of sidewalk neglect."

"There ought to be a statute to compel the owner to clear the ice and snow from the sidewalks adjoining his property and placing the liability on him."

"The city spends large amounts of money each year in investigating and defending suits brought by persons who have slipped on the icy walks and have been injured. First the complaint is looked into by trained investigators. Then if it goes to court, the case is prepared. This entails the services of the law department investigators, attorneys, stenographers and others, and it runs into money."

"That burden of course ultimately is borne by the taxpayer."

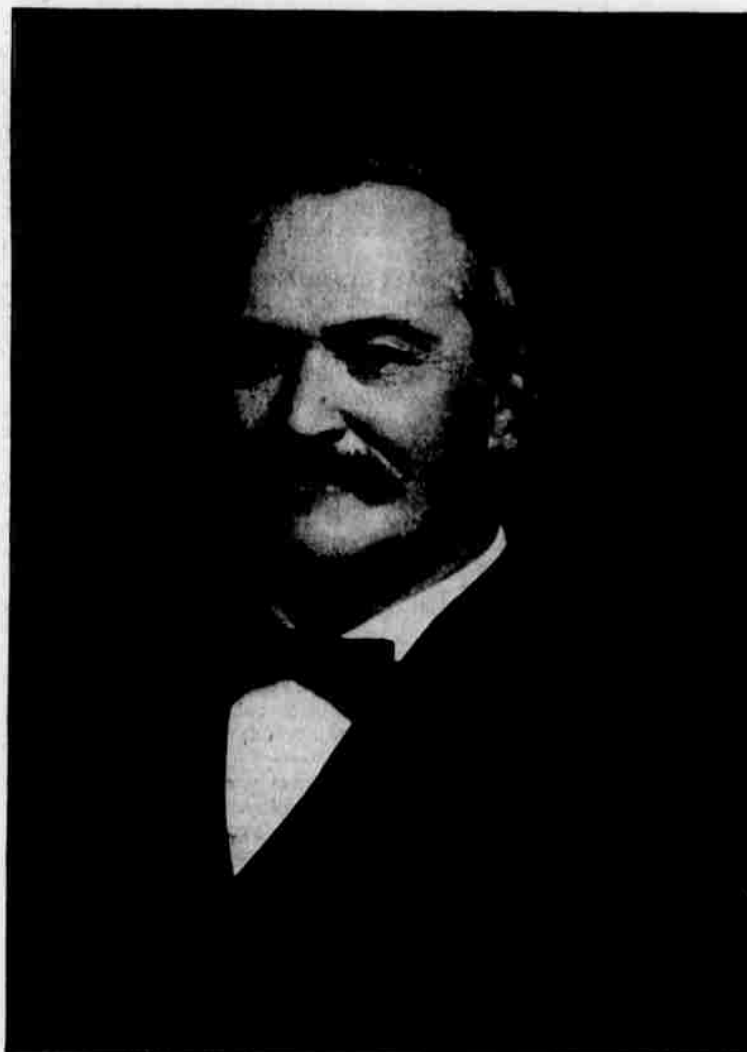
"It is unfortunate that in the state law the sidewalk is considered part of the street, and the cleaning must be imposed upon the city and not upon the property owner."

"There is one thing, however, that I believe can be done very easily. Whenever a property owner comes to the city for a sidewalk permit, involving the use of a coal hole or similar matter, a condition could be attached to his permit making it compulsory upon him to keep the sidewalk in question free from snow and ice."

"The Supreme Court has held that the city cannot make anyone else care for the sidewalks. Nevertheless, I will see if we cannot compel citizens to look after their own property."

What do you mean by their own property, Mr. Beckwith?

Are not the streets and sidewalks the city's "own property?"



THOMAS A. SMYTH.
Popular and Respected President of the Sanitary District of Chicago.

not force the burden of caring for them on the householders. The Supreme Court has held that the care of sidewalks lies with the city itself.

Advances in salaries to employees of the Chicago postoffice if the postal appropriation bill now pending in the House is passed without amendment were pointed out by department officials. The measure proposes a reclassification of the supervisory grades with a rate of pay based upon the receipts of the office.

"While Chicago has only one post-office officially," said Representative

as above described. All such stands shall be removed at the discretion of the Mayor or Commissioner of Public Works.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its passage.

Corporation Counsel Beckwith tells in an interview of the cost to the city in maintaining an army of investigators to look into sidewalk accidents.

Where would the poor householders of Chicago get the money to pay for investigators to guard them from put-up jobs?

do not expect to get their primary candidate out for about two weeks. They calculate there is ample time, as the primary is not until Feb. 23 and petitions cannot be filed until Jan. 3. David F. Matchett, chairman of the Republican county committee, has been authorized to name a committee of seven to confer with progressives and factions within the party relative to plans for a union of forces.

Republican demand for a recount of the votes for county offices will entail an unnecessary expense on the taxpayers. The majorities in nearly every